Damage/Shortage of Wheat procured in Punjab and Haryana

1957. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat procured in Punjab and Haryana in the months of March, April and May in the years 1998, 1999-2000 and 2001;

(b) how much of this quantity was released for PDS in these two States in the following ten months during the above period;

(c) the extent of damages/shortages reported during the said period; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) As the Rabi Marketing Season starts from Ist April of every year, there is no procurement of wheat during the month of March. The quantity of wheat procured in Punjab and Haryana during the month of March, April and May during the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) A statement showing allocation and offtake of wheat under T.P.D.S. in Punjab and Haryana for the years 1998-99 to 2001-02 for the period June to March is at Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) No storage loss of wheat was reported in Punjab and Haryana from 1998 to 2001. However the extent of damage reported in respect of Punjab and Haryana during the years 1998 to 2001 is as under:

(Figures in tonnes)

Region	1998	1999	2000	2001
Punjab	—	—	—	—
Haryana	—	—	0.77	392.03

The damage in Haryana region occurred due to untimely rains during the procurement season.

(d) The following measures have been taken to minimize damage/ loss:—

(i) Foodgrains conforming to prescribed specifications are accepted for storage;

(ii) Accepted foodgrains are stored in storage worthy constructed godowns or on high pucca plinth duly covered by polythene covers patched properly to prevent ballooning due to high velocity winds;

(iii) Stocks are also accepted on suitable dunnage such as wooden crates or bamboo mats sandwiched with polythene film to avoid absorption of floor seepage;

(iv) Fortnightly checking of stocks is carried out and prophylactic treatment is done to prevent insect infestation;

(v) Infected stocks are fumigated;

(vi) Stocks are issued on "first-in-first-out" basis to avoid prolonged storage and consequent loss;

(vii) Installation of lorry weigh-bridges and their inspection by Senior Officers to ensure proper weighment;

(viii) Intensifying administrative measures like tightening of security, surprise checks etc.;

(ix) Encouraging double line machine stitching of bags;

(x) Identification of vulnerable points and induction of C.I.S.F. personnel therein to curb/theft pilferage;

(xi) Streamlining of procedures and documentation for transparency and accountability in operations;

(xii) Reduction in open wagon movement as far as possible;

(xiii) Improvement in the size and quality of gunnies.

Statement-I

Procurement of wheat in Punjab and Haryana

(i) Punjab

(in lakh tonnes)

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001
March	—	—	—	—
April	36.19	61.80	62.73	56.72
May	24.61	16.39	29.86	48.49

(ii) Haryana

(in lakh tonnes)

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001
March	—	—	—	—
April	17.01	33.25	27.58	36.23
May	13.66	5.39	16.11	27.62

Statement-II

Allocation of wheat to Punjab and Haryana

(i) Punjab

(in lakh tonnes)

S.No.	Period	Allocation	Offtake
1.	June 1998 to March 1999	0.51	0.08
2.	June 1999 to March 2000	0.51	0.05

(in lakh tonnes)

S.No.	Period	Allocation	Offtake
3.	June 2000 to March 2001	0.90	0.12
4.	June 2001 to March 2002	1.15	0.43 (upto February, 2002)

(ii) Haryana (in lakh tonnes)

S.No.	Period	Allotment	Offtake
1.	June 1998 to March 1999	1.30	0.67
2.	June 1999 to March 2000	1.30	0.45
3.	June 2000 to March 2001	1.54	0.39
4.	June 2001 to March 2002	1.87	0.75 (upto February, 2002)

BPL Ration Card Holders under TPDS

1958. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considering to supply foodgrains to cover all the BPL ration card holders by making additional allocation of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether any State other than Gujarat has also made request for additional allocation of foodgrains to cover all the ration card holders identified as BPL families by them;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to cover all the BPL ration card holders under the TPDS; and

(d) if so, by when, the left out BPL families would be covered under this scheme?